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NEWS *from Young Concert Artists, Inc.*

DOUBLE BASSIST DAXUN ZHANG RECEIVES AVERY FISHER CAREER GRANT



April 10, 2006 – Double Bassist DaXun Zhang has just been awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the second double bassist to win in the history of the award. The grant of \$25,000 gives professional assistance and recognition to outstanding instrumentalists selected for their great potential for major solo careers. Artists do not apply directly for these awards and have no idea they are even under consideration. Nominations for this prestigious award are made by conductors, instrumentalists, music educators, composers, managers, and presenters. The Avery Fisher Career Grants began in 1976, and have been received by many renowned artists, including YCA Alumni Carter Brey, Anne-Marie McDermott, Ida Kavafian, Jeremy Denk, and, most recently, cellist Efe Baltacigil.

Mr. Zhang has been chosen as a member of Lincoln Center's Chamber Music Society Two and began his residency there this season. In May he performs in Kentucky's Chamber Music Festival of the Bluegrass with cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han, who have also invited him to participate this summer in the chamber music festival Music@Menlo in California. This month he appears in several performances with Yo-Yo Ma's *Silk Road Project* and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Miguel Harth-Bedoya. Mr. Zhang previously performed and toured with the *Silk Road Project*, including concerts in Japan, California, and Carnegie Hall in 2004. He worked with Mr. Ma to record the soundtrack to a 10-part documentary series on the Silk Road. The series aired on Japan's national broadcast channel, NHK, and the CD has been released as "Silk Road Journeys: Beyond the Horizon" on Sony Classical.

The first double bass player to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in 2003, YCA presented Mr. Zhang in debut recitals in New York at the 92nd Street Y and in Washington, DC at the Kennedy Center. He was also the first double bassist ever to win First Prize in the 2003 WAMSO (Women's Auxiliary of the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra) competition, leading to a performance with the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra with Osmo Vanska conducting. In 2001, he was the youngest artist ever to win the International Society of Bassists Solo Competition. Mr. Zhang comes from a family of bassists in Harbin, China. He studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and continued his studies in the U.S. at the Interlochen Arts Academy, receiving his Bachelor of Music at the Indiana University School of Music, where he worked with Lawrence Hurst. He is currently on the faculty at Northwestern University.

Young Concert Artists, Inc. is a non-profit organization which presents the winners of its annual Auditions in debuts in New York, Boston, and Washington, DC and provides ongoing management services to launch the careers of exceptional young musicians. For more information about DaXun Zhang and Young Concert Artists, please visit <http://www.yca.org>.

For more information or to engage DaXun Zhang, please contact:

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